



# The Bemidji Catholic Community

## St. Philip's School

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September 28, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Whether you are awed by the dazzling morning sun or the encompassing thick fog, the colorful leaves or the perfect days followed by crisp, cool nights, God has blessed us with an absolutely gorgeous autumn. Take a walk, go for a drive, breathe in the fall, enjoy the season at hand. Then, be sure to thank God for the treasures we are able to experience.

**FALL FESTIVAL:** A huge "Thank You" to everyone who was involved in making this year's Fall Festival so successful. Those who worked, those who gave, those who purchased, those who played, those who ate, all of you - THANK YOU! It was a wonderful day for our parish.

**RACHEL'S CHALLENGE:** Have you ever wanted to change the world? Join us Thursday evening at 7:00 P.M. in the church for a presentation that just may move us all to treat one another with greater kindness and compassion. Sponsored by Our Lady of the Snow council of Catholic United Financial, St. Philip's School is hosting "Rachel's Challenge", based on the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott, the first person killed at Columbine High School in 1999. Students will be introduced to the program during the day, while parents and community members are invited to attend the evening session. Please come. Let's meet the challenge.

**HOW DO KIDS THINK?** That's the question being asked by undergraduate students in Dr. Dave Benson's educational psychology class at Bemidji State University. On Tuesday and Thursday, October 4 & 6, these teachers-in-training will be at St. Philip's School interviewing kindergarten and first grade students to get to know first-hand the thinking process of youngsters. Questions will be related to school subjects and all responses are good, valid, and of importance to the future teachers. All interviews will be done in the classroom at the same time. Parents who do not wish for their child to be interviewed should send a note to that effect. What a great way for prospective teachers to understand the minds they may one day teach.

**HOT DIGGITY DOG!** If we reach our Marathon goal of \$15,000, one lucky class will get to douse me with ketchup, mustard, relish, onions, pickles, and who knows what else to make me into a Hot Dog! Hurry and get those pledges. Plan to walk, bike, or run on Saturday, October 8, as we show our support for St. Philip's School. Turn in all donations by October 14 to be eligible for prizes. Contact Paula DeClusin or Maryhelen Chadwick if you have a question.

**SPORTS REMINDERS:** How proud I am of the many St. Philip's students who are involved in middle school, high school, and community sports. I encourage and support their participation. Because middle school sports and activities fall under the auspices of the Minnesota State High School League, student athletes (gr. 6-8) are required to maintain a 2.0 academic average, to be in school at least half a day prior to practicing or playing, to abide by the MSHSL Code of Responsibility, and to realize that family commitments and school commitments supersede sporting activities. Even though District #31 buses transport our middle school students to the away competitions, students need to bring a note from home excusing them from school. Please call St. Philip's if you have questions.

**LEGOS WANTED:** Our third grade class (which is predominately male) could use more Legos for those days when the kids need to stay indoors. If you know of anyone who has some to give away, we could sure use them. Thanks.

**MID-TERM GRADES ALREADY!** Believe it or not, students in grades 5-8 will take home their mid-term grades next Wednesday, October 5. Please discuss the report with your child, sign the form, and return it to school. Contact us if you have questions or concerns. Mid-terms serve as a means of communication between school and home. The end of the first grading period is October 31.

**PRAYER PARTNER WEEKEND:** This weekend we recognize those children who are preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Please pray for them as they learn about the great love God has for us through the healing sacrament of forgiveness.

**MINISTRY TRAINING:** Have you thought about being a lector, a Eucharistic Minister, a greeter, usher, or on hospitality? If so, please contact Janet Weaver at the Parish Offices. There will be a training session for all these ministries on Wednesday, October 26.

**PARISH DIRECTORY:** It's been over five years since our last Parish Directory. It's time to update. Please sign up for a time to have your family photographed.

**OCTOBER IS SAFETY MONTH:** We will be practicing fire drills, lock-down drills, and bus evacuation. It is always a good idea to be prepared, to know what to do in case of an emergency, and to practice before an actual situation arises. So, throughout the month of October, we will try to get our five required fire drills and some of our five required lock-down drills practiced.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOL:** Kindergarteners have displayed the colors of the rainbow; The first graders are mastering how to sit on their ballchairs; Second grade Word-A-Week projects are on display in the main hallway; Third graders can recognize numbers up to the millions and fourth graders are memorizing states and capitals; The fifth grade is now in charge of patrol and are beginning to select instruments for band. Sixth graders have been to Concordia and get to be in MathCounts, Fridays with the Father, and Bemidji Middle School activities; the seventh grade provides great assistance to the school through their Community Service time; and the eighth graders just completed a Challenge Course and lived to tell about their experiences. No dull moments here.

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** Need those five fund raising hours? Please solicit for or participate in the Marathon; Information Desk workers; Parish Directory help; person to answer phones while the parish secretary is at a weekly meeting; set up and clean up for school Masses;

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS.....**those who are ill (including Mrs. Bormann).....those who have died and the family and friends who mourn their passing.....children preparing for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation.....all those involved with Rachel's Challenge.....

**85 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE:** Near the end of 1924, Fr. Fraling took on all the responsibilities of the actual building of the school.

“Set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Very truly,

Carol Rettinger  
Principal